

**Report of Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)**  
**to**  
**Senior Arctic Official (SAO) Meeting in**  
**Selfoss, Iceland**  
**May 4 and 5, 2004**

**I. Key CAFF Activities Since Last SAO Meeting**

- ! The CAFF has developed the Framework Document for the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program. This report will be a key CAFF deliverable at the Ministerial meeting.
- ! The CAFF has been extensively involved in completing the ACIA Scientific Report and Overview Document.
- ! The CAFF has been participating in the development of the PAME-led AC Arctic Marine Strategic Plan, and attended the recent AMSP Workshop in Helsinki.
- ! CAFF, through its Norwegian representative and Grid-Arendal, has been involved in ongoing efforts in the implementation of the ECORA Project. We expect the ECORA Project to begin implementation this summer.
- ! CAFF and AMAP conducted a joint meeting in April concerning the ACIA Project documents, AMAP Hydrocarbon Assessment, and a coordinated CAFF/AMAP monitoring program.

**II. Ongoing CAFF Activities**

- ! There have been routine meetings of the CAFF Working Group, the CAFF Secretariat, and the three CAFF sub-groups: CBIRD, CFG and CPAN. The CAFF Management Board held meetings in Homer, Alaska, in November 16 to 18, 2003; and Oslo, Norway on April 14 and 16, 2004. The CBIRD group met in the Faroe Islands in February 2004. Information on these activities and meetings are provided in the monthly reports of the CAFF Secretariat, which are copied to the CAFF Working Group, AC Secretariat, AC Working Groups, and interested parties.
- ! Ongoing efforts of the CAFF Working Group continue with projects such as the ACIA Scientific Report and Overview Document, the Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program, the ECORA Project, and Birds of Arctic Conservation Concern.
- ! There have been ongoing liaison with other AC Working Groups and AC Observers, and programs seeking CAFF participation and support. One new activity is collaboration with SDWG on the Capacity Development Review.

**III. Future CAFF Activities and Plans**

- ! CAFF will be highlighting, in cooperation with AMAP and IASC, the ACIA Scientific Report and Overview Document for the May 2004 SAO and the Ministerial meetings.
- ! CAFF will be publishing its Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Framework

Document. CAFF will be designing this program to coincide with the requirements for biological monitoring suggested in the ACIA and other Documents.

! CAFF will continue to actively participate in the PAME-led AC Arctic Marine Strategic Plan, the AMAP Hydrocarbon Assessment, and SDWG activities.

! The CAFF will continue to explore connections to, and meet with, other programs and networks external to the AC such as SCANNET, ENVINET, CEON and the Northern View Project. The connections and links will be used to support and effectively implement CAFF activities and projects.

! The CFG will be meeting in Tromso, Norway in June 2004.

! The CPAN Group will meet in Anchorage, Alaska in Sept 2004.

! The CAFF X meeting will be held in Anchorage, Alaska, in September 14 to 16, 2004.

#### **IV. Issues For the SAOs**

! The last couple of years there have been escalating expectations for the Working Groups to increase their collaboration on AC projects; e.g., AMAP Hydrocarbon Assessment, PAME-led Arctic Marine Strategic Plan, ACIA, monitoring activities, and sustainable development projects. Although coordination and collaboration are important between the Working Groups, such commitments placing significant travel, time, and funding burdens on the Working Groups and their Secretariats. It would seem that before a Working Group initiated a project that required the significant involvement of other Working Groups that an agreement is reached between all Working Groups involved before a project is approved. What are the SAOs expectations for the Working Groups concerning collaborative projects?